NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
NEWS

VOL. XXII, No. 10 Bethesda, Maryland 20014 October 1967

OCT 30 1967
MEDICAL LIBRARY

# Regional Medical Library for South America

The Government of Brazil, the Paulista School of Medicine of the Federal University of São Paulo, and the Pan American Health Organization have concluded an agreement to establish a regional library of medicine for South America to be located at Paulista.

Leonard Karel, Ph.D., Special Assistant to NLM's Associate Director for Intramural Programs, has been detailed to PAHO for ninety days beginning in November as Interim Director. Mr. Loren R. Newburn, until recently a member of NLM's Bibliographic Services Division, has been named Deputy Director.

As an international agency, the new library will be administered by PAHO, in close affiliation with the School and in cooperation with NLM and the Pan American Federation of Associations of Medical Schools. Its primary goals are to further the progress of biomedical research and the teaching and practice of medicine in South America. The regional library will provide increased access to a comprehensive collection of biomedical publications and will make bibliographic materials more accessible through MEDLARS demand searches. It will also serve as a demonstration and training center to encourage the development of biomedical libraries in South America.

The Library will provide members of the health professions in Latin America with medical literature services, primarily through the existing libraries in schools of medicine, dentistry, public health, veterinary medicine, nursing, and other schools and institutes. Secondarily, it will also provide qualified persons with such services directly. This arrangement has been designed to stimulate participating libraries in the development of their resources.

One of the Library's main tasks will be to make potential users aware of the services available, to disseminate news of its activities and the results of its services.

The Pan American Health Organization will select and appoint a technical advisory committee composed of internationally recognized authorities in the fields of medical librarianship and the health sciences. The committee is to meet annually to advise the Director of the Library on technical aspects of policy, programming, administration, and evaluation of the library activities. Both the National Library of Medicine and the Pan American Federation of Associations of Medical Schools are to have permanent representatives on the Committee.

NLM will also provide training at Bethesda in search formulation and programming.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
NEWS

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Published monthly by the Public Information Office, National Library of Medicine, Public Health Service, for health science libraries, the health professions, and news media.

Use of funds for printing this publication approved by the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, January 18, 1963.

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## End-of-Year IM's to Double in Size

Subscribers to *Index Medicus* will receive two-volume issues for October, November, and December 1967, each containing approximately 20,000 citations in 1100 pages -- about double the size of previous issues this year. It is expected that the issues will be mailed ten days to two weeks later than usual.

The jump in size reflects the need to publish this year 30,000 previously backlogged citations indexed at NLM and prepared for input into MEDLARS by outside contractors. These will, of course, appear also in the *Cumulated Index Medicus* for 1967.

There will be no additional cost to subscribers for the three enlarged issues, although the cost per single copy will be $6.25 instead of $3.75. (Orders must be sent to the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.)

## Growth of HMD Collections

The transfer to the History of Medicine Division of material published between 1800 and 1870, following the decision to advance the cut-off date for historical materials (*NLM News*, July 1967), has produced the following totals for HMD collections of printed books:

| | pre-1801 | post-1800 | total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Monographs | 36,100 | 37,100 | 73,200 |
| Pamphlets | 7,700 | 149,600 | 157,300 |
| Theses | 16,500 | 228,100 | 244,600 |
| Serial volumes | 800 | 16,000 | 16,800 |
| Total | 61,100 | 430,800 | 491,900 |

The Division's collections also include an estimated 60,600 pictures, an estimated 335,000 items of manuscript material (including approximately 600 bound volumes), and 250 microfilm reels of books and manuscripts.

## NLM PROGRAM REPORT NO. 6 - Research and Development Program

by Ruth M. Davis, Ph.D.

*The NLM Research and Development Program for Biomedical Communications was established in April 1967, with the appointment of Dr. Ruth M. Davis as Associate Director (NLM News, March 1967). The program is designed to assist the biomedical community in improving the transfer of biomedical information. The results of the R&D Program are intended to benefit medical practitioners, educators, and researchers. Mr. F. Wilfrid Lancaster, NLM, Mr. Charles Cummings, NLM, and Mr. Ralph Simmons and Mr. Davis McCarn, both from the Defense Intelligence Agency, have since been appointed to the staff. General program areas are:*

Evaluation and observation of communications systems and practices to determine efficiencies and deficiencies, and to effect improvements.

Providing immediate improvements to alleviate existing and pressing operational problems.

Application of proven and advanced technology to provide entirely new, improved means for performing communication functions.

Experimentation with and application of new techniques, procedures, and equipment.

Advancement of technology that has specific application to known or anticipated communications needs of the biomedical community.

Specific program objectives are:

1. An automated document-handling library network.

2. Automated information-handling networks.

3. System management through system monitoring, system adaptivity, controlled feedback, and application of control system procedures.

4. Experimentation with communications systems in controlled environments: Observation and evaluation of operational systems in order to extract system parameters, system inadequacies, and component coupling.

5. Query languages, information banks (data banks), and document collections structured to permit direct communication by the biomedical professional.

6. Medical problem-solving with automated assistance.

(Continued on Page 8)

# Dental Educators, Librarians, Convene

A group of leading dental representatives of education and administration, librarianship, practice, and organized dentistry met at the Library on September 19 and 20 for the Second Ad Hoc Conference on the Role of the National Library of Medicine in Continuing Dental Education. Dr. Barnes Woodhall, Vice Provost of the Duke University Medical Center, Durham, North Carolina, and Chairman of the NLM Board of Regents, served as moderator for the first morning's sessions.

The meeting was convened primarily to follow up and further develop the recommendations of the first conference (*NLM News*, January 1967), at which conferees discussed resources for continuing education in dentistry, how dental libraries can serve those concerned with continuing education programs, and the role of NLM in furthering these programs.

At this second meeting, there was general appreciation of the fact that the Library has been moving steadily away from its traditional role of passive repository of printed materials toward that of a dynamic disseminator of biomedical information in its many modern forms. Conferees agreed that dental professionals can expect to benefit in many ways from this more active approach to biomedical communications problems, but that the greatest impact will be on broad programs relating to continuing dental education. This is of special significance at a time when dentistry, like all major professions, is increasingly concerned with matters of continuing education.

The first day's sessions were devoted, first, to presentations by NLM staff members on the latest developments in Library programs and operations, and, second, to statements from dental school administrators, librarians, educators, researchers, and those with special organizational interest in continuing dental education.

A five-member committee convened on the evening of September 19 to draft a conference report embodying recommendations formulated during that afternoon's sessions. The recommendations are now being circulated among the participants for approval. They include such ideas as: that the National Library of Medicine continue to develop programs to familiarize the numerous specialty groups of dentistry with the Library's various services and products, and that such public-information programs be individualized to focus on each of these groups; that the present close cooperation of the Library with the American Dental Association and the American Association of Dental Schools be fostered and expanded as far as possible; that the Library encourage and promote the participation of dental librarians in MEDLARS training and other Library programs and that NLM continue to work closely with the American Dental Association and other professional groups to develop and promulgate new indexing and abstracting tools and services for the dental community.

Participants at the conference are listed on page 7.

# New NLM Literature Searches

Single copies of the following bibliographies are available on request to the Office of the Assistant to the Director, National Library of Medicine, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland 20014. They should be ordered by number. Please do not send requests on interlibrary loan forms.

| L.S. No. | Title | Number of Citations |
|---|---|---|
| 9-67 | Cardiac resuscitation.<br>Mid-1963-July 1967. | 266 |
| 10-67 | Hospital architecture.<br>Mid-1963-July 1967. | 198 |
| 11-67 | Oral cytology.<br>Mid-1963-July 1967. | 142 |
| 12-67 | Implanted artificial heart.<br>Mid-1963-July 1967. | 64 |
| 13-67 | Evaluation of patient care and chronic disease facilities.<br>Mid-1963-August 1967. | 57 |
| 14-67 | Human laterality in learning and aphasia.<br>Mid-1963-August 1967. | 105 |
| 15-67 | Amino acid transport in non-human mammals.<br>Mid-1963-September 1967. | 131 |
| 16-67 | Asparginase in metabolism, especially antitumor activity.<br>January 1964-August 1967. | 19 |
| 17-67 | Cytogenetics in mongolism.<br>January 1964-August 1967. | 257 |
| 18-67 | Blood bank administration.<br>January 1964-August 1967. | 26 |
| 19-67 | Enzymes and human neoplasms.<br>Mid-1963-August 1967. | 566 |
| 20-67 | Aerospace medicine.<br>Mid-1963-August 1967. | 453 |

## New Review Publication Scheduled

Practitioners, scientists, and medical librarians have suggested to the Library the desirability of having citations to review articles available as a separate, inexpensive, desk reference tool. To help meet this need, NLM will begin publication of a monthly *Bibliography of Medical Reviews* in January 1968.

The bibliography will be a separate printing of material that appears monthly in the "Bibliography of Medical Reviews" section of *Index Medicus*. The "Reviews" section will be retained in *Index Medicus*.

The Superintendent of Documents subscription price for the new *Bibliography of Medical Reviews* will be about $5.00 per year and will include an annual cumulation. Complete ordering information will be published in the November issue of the *NLM News*.

## Personnel

### Extramural Programs

*Mr. Kefauver*

Mr. David F. Kefauver has been appointed Acting Associate Director for Extramural Programs, following the departure of Marjorie P. Wilson, M.D., who is now at the National Institutes of Health as Associate Director for Program Development in the Office of Program Planning, Office of the Director. Mr. Kefauver came to NLM in 1965 as Scientist Administrator in the EMP Research and Training Divison; in 1966, he was named Chief of that division and Acting Chief of the Publications and Translations Division.

Carl D. Douglass, Ph.D., Chief of EMP's Facilities and Resources Division, has accepted a position as Associate Director for Program Development in the Division of Research Facilities and Resources, NIH. His successor has not yet been named.

### Intramural Programs

Mr. James P. Riley, Chief, Technical Services Division, has been appointed Deputy Associate Director for Intramural Programs. He will assist Dr. Joseph Leiter, Associate Director, in administering the NLM divisions concerned with library operations. Mr. Riley will continue also as Chief of TSD until a successor has been appointed.

*Mr. Riley*

Mr. C. Dake Gull has joined the NLM staff as a Technical Information Specialist in TSD. Mr. Gull will serve as the Library's Technical Liaison Officer on the National Libraries Task Force through which the three Federal libraries have embarked on a major coordinated program of library automation (*NLM News*, July 1967). Mr. Gull was a Professor of Library Science at Indiana University.

## Toxicology Information Program

James W. Long, M.D., has joined the Toxicology Information Program as Chief, Terminology Development and Management. Dr. Long, who received his education at the University of Maryland, was formerly with the Food and Drug Administration's Bureau of Medicine, as Chief, Searches and Reports Branch, Adverse Reaction Task Force.

Dr. Sharon L. Valley, who has just earned her Ph.D. in pharmacology from the University of Michigan, reported to the Toxicology Information Program in September. She will be working on the Toxicology Information Exchange.

Mr. Raymond Ihndris has come to the Library from the National Cancer Institute, where he was responsible for the chemical information file on an optical coincidence system of indexing for cancer chemotherapy-related compounds. Mr. Ihndris will work on terminology in the field of chemistry, broadly interpreted to include all means of identifying chemical substances.

## Research and Development Program

Mr. Ralph A. Simmons has been appointed to the Library's Research and Development Program to plan and conduct evaluations of and experiments on components of biomedical information and document handling systems. Mr. Simmons has been an Operations Research Specialist with the Defense Intelligence Agency in Washington.

Mr. David B. McCarn has been named Special Assistant, Science Communications, to the Associate Director, R&D. Mr. McCarn was most recently Chief of the Planning and Development Division, Defense Intelligence Agency.

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Continued from page 4 - Participants at Ad Hoc Continuing Dental Education Conference

Dr. William Biddington, University of West Virginia; Dr. J. Murray Gavel, Academy of General Dentistry; Dr. Charles McCallum, University of Alabama; Dr. Marion W. McCrea, American Association of Dental Schools; Dr. Alvin L. Morris, University of Kentucky; Dr. John V. Olson, University of Texas; Miss Minnie Orfanos, Northwestern University; Dr. John J. Salley, University of Maryland; Dr. Jeanne C. Sinkford, Howard University Dental College; and Dr. Donald A. Washburn, American Dental Association.

7. Application of advanced techniques tailored to specific needs of the individual biomedical practitioner, researcher, or support personnel, e.g., color in communication, remote browsing, high-resolution material transmission.

8. Education through automated information and communications networks.

In May 1967 the MEDLARS Evaluation Project under the direction of Mr. F. Wilfrid Lancaster (*NLM News*, October 1966) was transferred to the R&D Program. This evaluation, one of the first of an operational information system, is approximately half-completed and involves the analysis of some three hundred demand searches. Intermediate findings already have suggested means for improvement of the demand search input and have provided preliminary data on the effectiveness of the demand search strategies now in use. The final report on the evaluation will be completed during the third quarter of FY 68.

In October 1966 the National Library of Medicine contracted with the Inter-university Communications Council (EDUCOM) to study how biomedical information might be distributed over a network to physicians and institutions serving the medical community (*NLM News*, March 1967). EDUCOM is a consortium of 76 universities whose prime purpose is to foster the application of the communication sciences in support of higher education. This contract was transferred to the R&D Program in May 1967, and is continuing under the direction of Mr. Joseph Becker, who is being assisted by Mr. Tad Mayeda, a systems analyst and designer.

In June the R&D Program was assigned the responsibility for "reviewing and evaluating the fundamental systems concept of decentralization which has been a basis of the MEDLARS system." Since the decentralization concept is one of the keystones for planning an improved health information system, high priority is assigned to this project.

One of the first new activities undertaken by the Research and Development Program was the establishment of the Remote Information Systems Center (RISC) Project. This center will house on-line communications terminals to provide access to remote computer centers throughout the United States, permitting: access to remote data banks; on-line programming using the advanced programming languages available at computer centers; and experimentation in several application areas by NLM personnel. Computer systems currently contemplated for access from the RISC include the COLEX System (Scientific and Technical Intelligence System), the SDC Computer facility at Santa Monica, the Army Chemical Information Data System (CIDS) at Philadelphia, and Project MAC at M.I.T.

On-line terminals being procured are the TTY Model 37, the IBM 1050, and the DURA Mod 1040 typewriter.

A primary motivation for the establishment of the R&D Program was to acquire the resources for long-range planning for NLM and, in particular, for the projected Center for Biomedical Communications. The EDUCOM Project personnel have been assisting in planning and preliminary data have been developed for the Center for Biomedical Communications.